

John Maddox Denn House  
Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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John Maddox Denn House  
Lower Alloways Creek Township, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Josiah Harris

Date of Erection: 1725

Architect:

Builder: John Maddox Denn

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

John Maddox the first member of the family in Salem County was a Chandler from the parish of St. Sepulchre in London; he landed with his family in Salem from the ship "Surry" in 1678 and purchased one-half of William Hancock's lot and ground.

John Maddox Denn, the grandson of John Maddox, was born in 1693, married Elizabeth Oakford in 1717, and built this house in 1725. We are told


by Shrouds that Elizabeth Oakford died one year before the house was built. Four years after her death Maddox married Leah Paul. The initials and the date on the east elevation are "I. L. D. 1725". Just what the "L" means is hard to say; it might mean Lizzie for Elizabeth his first wife or in anticipation it might mean Leah for his second wife.

For several generations the house was occupied by the Bradway family direct descendants of John Maddox Denn. The house was sold by Ann and Ellen Bradway to George Clevenger who in turn sold it to the present owner.

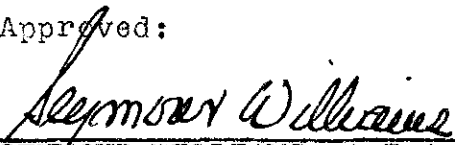
Bibliography:

Sickler, J. S. The Old Houses of Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1924

Shrouds, Thomas History and Geneology of Fenwick's Colony Bridgton, George F. Nixon, 1876

  
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Supervising Historian

Approved:

  
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SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

*Wm. Lutz*

A D D E N D U M

A search at Trenton reveals two items which are interesting in connection with the initial "L" on the east elevation. In the year 1733 Daniel Mestayer, surrogate of Salem County, certified that there appeared before him one Leah Denn administrator of John Denn. For the year 1749 there appears an item in which Leah and John Denn both of Alloway Creek "are held and firmly bound unto his excellency, Jonathan Belcher, Esquire." Leah Denn is mentioned as the administrator of Leah Denn. This is signed by both John and Leah Denn, apparently children of the elder Leah. There is also a will for the year 1760 in which John Denn of Alloways Creek gives to his son James "all my plantation or moiety of the same with the buildings and improvements thereon." We find that James left the farm to his sons James and William. The property came into the possession of the Bradway family in 1850 and remained in their possession until 1899. In our earlier sketch we mentioned that they were direct descendants of John Maddox Denn. Since our first account the property was sold on April 23, 1936 to Earl Bowers.

## Bibliography:

A search of Salem County court records by  
Mary N. Mifflin, Salem County Office

A search of records in the Secretary of  
State's Office at Trenton by Robert M.  
Falcey, Mercer County Office

*Nathaniel E. Reith*  
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